



THE NAVAJO NATION

ALBERT A. HALE
PRESIDENT

SDMS DOCID # 1148166

CP-3 Biological Survey



THOMAS E. ATCITTY
VICE PRESIDENT

M E M O R A N D U M

TO : Tony Robbins, Reclamation Specialist II
Navajo Abandoned Mine Lands Reclamation Dept.
Tuba City Field Office

THRU : John R. Meyer
John R. Meyer, Wildlife Manager
Navajo Natural Heritage Program
Navajo Fish & Wildlife Department

FROM : Debra A. Yazzie
Debra A. Yazzie, Wildlife Biologist
Biological Survey Services Program
Navajo Fish & Wildlife Department

DATE : DECEMBER 07, 1995

SUBJECT : 1994 Golden Eagle and Ferruginous Hawk Survey of
Cameron 3 & 4 potential habitat sites, draft report.

Ex-Biological Survey Services Program (BSSP) biologist, Steven Chischilly submitted to your office in draft form, "Threatened and Endangered species survey and biological evaluation: Golden eagle and Ferruginous hawk" report in May 1994 for review.

Our records indicate no draft report comments have been received from your office since then. BSSP resubmits the draft report with several corrects made to the first draft report with this memorandum. Please review the second draft report and submit comments to our office as soon as possible.

If no reclamation activities took place at the Cameron III & IV project sites during the 1995 field season, all potential Golden Eagle and Ferruginous Hawk sites are not cleared for the 1996 field season.

Also attached is a charge for service. Please credit Navajo Tribal revolving account # 3-82000-0863 via Interdepartmental Charge Requisition (ICR).

If you have questions contact me at 520-871-7639 or leave a message at 520-871-6472.

xc: BSSP file
ATTACHMENTS

BIOLOGICAL SURVEY SERVICES PROGRAM
P.O. BOX 1480
WINDOW ROCK, ARIZONA 86515

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES SURVEY AND
BIOLOGICAL EVALUATION:

GOLDEN EAGLE AND FERRUGINOUS HAWK

CLIENT:

NAVAJO ABANDONED MINE LAND RECLAMATION
DEPARTMENT-TUBA CITY FIELD OFFICE

PROJECT:

CAMERON III AND IV:
ABANDONED URANIUM MINES

DECEMBER 07, 1995

INTRODUCTION

Aquila chrysaetos (golden eagle) and Buteo regalis (ferruginous hawk) surveys were conducted on April 19, 20, and 21, 1994 by Steven Chischilly, Biological Survey Services Program (BSSP) Biologist as requested by the Navajo Abandoned Mine Lands Reclamation Department-Tuba City Field Office (AML-TC). AML-TC refers to the project sites as Cameron 3 & 4 which are composed of abandoned open uranium pits.

These surveys were conducted to investigate if golden eagles and/or ferruginous hawks nested within or adjacent to proposed project sites. Potential nesting habitat for the golden eagle occurs on Black Point, a volcanic lava flow mesa. Sandstone pinnacles which exist near the Little Colorado River could provide nesting habitat for ferruginous hawks.

METHODS

Steven Chischilly met with Tony Robbins, Reclamation Specialist II, and Raymond Tsinigine, Reclamation Specialist III, on April 20, 1994 at the Tuba City field office. This meeting was held to acquaint Chischilly with the best access route to Black Point.

The cliffs, crevices, and sandstone pinnacles were periodically looked at with the aid of binoculars and a spotting scope while hiking in potential habitat.

RESULTS

The volcanic lava flow mesa known as Black Point was surveyed by hiking along the bottom of the mesa and periodically scanning cliffs and crevices. Jackrabbit wash was hiked as well as the mesas east of this wash. The basalt cliffs and the surrounding volcanic bench which are found on Black Point was hiked and scanned. The entire cliff ledge was hiked and scanned for the presence of nests.

The sandstone pinnacles were also searched via binoculars and spotting scope for the presence of nesting ferruginous hawks. Most of these sandstone pinnacles are located near the Little Colorado River.

The vegetative characteristic of the Cameron 3 & 4 project area is described by Brown (1982) as "Great Basin Desertscrub of the shadscale series". The project area is located in the cold temperate Painted Desert of the Navajo Nation.

Plants and animals were identified either on sight, tracks, call or by scat (Table 1). Plants not identifiable in the field were collected for later identification in the laboratory.

Table 1. Plants and animals found in the vicinity of Black Point and the Little Colorado River.

Plants:

Shadscale (Atriplex confertifolia)
Broom Snakeweed (Gutierrezia sarothrae)
Camelthorn (Alhagi camelorum)
Indian Ricegrass (Oryzopsis hymenoides)
Blue Grama (Boutaloua gracilis)
Hopi Blanket Flower (Gaillardia pinntifolia)
Sunflower (Helianthus helioides)
Annual Buckwheat (Areionum divaricatum)
Globemallow (Sphaeralcea sp.)
Mormon Tea (Ephedra sp.)
Soapweed (Yucca sp.)
Rubber Rabbitbrush (Chrysothamnus nauseosus)
Prickly Pear Cactus (Opuntia sp.)
Foxtail Barley (Hordeum jubatum)
Salt Cedar (Tamarix chinensis)
Dune Broom (Parryella sp.)

Animals:

Raven (Corvus corax)
Red-tailed Hawk (Buteo jamaicensis)
Sharp Shinned Hawk (Accipiter striatus)
Common Collared Lizard (Crotaphytus collaris)
Loggerhead Shrike (Lanius ludovicianus)
Bendire's Thrasher (Toxostoma bendirei)
Black-throated Sparrow (Amphispiza bilineata)
Canyon Wren (Catherpes mexicanus)
Merlin (Falco columbarius)
Pronghorn (Antilocapra americana)
Mourning Dove (Zenaida macroura)
Horned Lark (Eremophila alpestris)

No ferruginous hawks or golden eagles were observed during the survey.

CONCLUSIONS

No significant negative impact is expected upon the golden eagle and the ferruginous hawk. The area of potential habitat remain clear between May 1994 through February 1995.

Additional monitoring must be conducted if the reclamation of Cameron 3 & 4 does not take place during the 1995 field season. The following project sites are located near potential habitat: NA-0179, -0180, -0184, -0186, -0187, -0194, -0195, -0197, and -0198.

REFERENCES

Brown, David E. 1982. Desert Plants: Biotic Communities of the American

Report prepared by:

Debra A. Vazzie, Wildlife Biologist
Biological Survey Services Program
Navajo Fish & Wildlife Department

C O N C U R R E N C E :

Larry Benallie, Sr., Director
Navajo Fish & Wildlife Department
Division of Natural Resources

CHARGE FOR SERVICE SHEET

Project: Cameron 3 & 4 Client: AML-Tuba City Field Office

Type of survey: BE x BA _ T&E _ Species GoEagle/Ferru \$70 x

Zoological (hiking, scoping)..... 9 hours

Report Writing..... 5 hours

Travel..... 10 hours

24 hours X \$ 70.00/hour = \$ 1,680.00

TOTAL DUE = \$ 1,680.00

Prepared on 07DECEMBER95 by

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